



FOREST SERVICE

*United States
Department of Agriculture*

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NEWS

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**BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT**

*United States
Department of Interior*

Bishop Field Office
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Forest Service and BLM Propose Prescribed Burning at Doe Ridge

The Inyo National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – Bishop Field Office are jointly proposing to use low-intensity prescribed fire (underburning) to improve the overall health and resilience of the existing Jeffrey pine forest on Doe Ridge. The underburning to reduce surface and ladder fuels and vegetation would be conducted in accordance with local land and resource management plans, as well as more recent regional and national-level public land management guidance. A secondary purpose of this initiative is to reduce the likelihood of a wildfire starting on Doe Ridge under adverse weather conditions and spreading to ultimately threaten nearby structures and residences.

The proposed project area is located approximately 7 miles east of Mammoth Lakes, and includes 509 acres managed by the Inyo National Forest and 486 acres managed by the BLM – Bishop Field Office, for a project total of 995 acres. Prescribed fire operations would be conducted by qualified specialists during the late fall and/or spring, when conditions are most favorable for low-intensity fire and good smoke dispersal.

The Forest Service has been implementing low-intensity prescribed fire the past 10 years on over 15,000 acres of Jeffrey pine forest in Mono County. In these areas, the prescribed fire has primarily consumed over 80 years of accumulated duff, needlecast, slash, brush, and small trees, thereby reducing the risk of mortality to the larger overstory Jeffrey pine trees from a high-intensity wildland fire. The prescribed fire proposed for Doe Ridge is anticipated to have the same effects as have been seen elsewhere in Mono County.

A comment period is being provided so those interested in or affected by the proposed project have an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to decisions being made. The comment period for this project closes November 22, 2008. For more information about the proposed project or for information on how to make comments, please contact Dale Johnson at (760) 872-5055.

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